

USSN: 09/445,517
Atty Docket No. 18528/230 235/013US

REMARKS

Prior to the present Amendment, the most recent amendment to the claims was submitted 21 April 2005. In that submission, claims 23-39 and 41-67 were listed as pending.

During a telephone call on 23 February 2006, Examiner Devi pointed out a discrepancy in numbering of the pending claims. After reviewing the prosecution history of the application, Applicants' note that an inadvertent error in claim numbering had been made in the Supplemental Amendment submitted 19 November 2004. Before submission of the amendment, claims 1-47 were pending, originally filed claims 1-15 and new claims 16-47 added in an Amendment submitted 5 December 2002. In the Supplemental Amendment of 19 November 2004, claims 1-22 and 40 were canceled however claims 41-47 (all dependent from claim 40) were mistakenly not canceled. In this same 19 November 2004 Amendment, new claims 41-67 were added. Thus, there are two sets of claims 41-47 in the prosecution history of this application. The present submission is intended to correct the claim numbering.

Applicants thank Examiner Devi for bringing this discrepancy in claim numbering to our attention so that this matter could be quickly rectified.

By this amendment, claims 41-67 have been canceled and the re-presented in new claims 68-94, without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. The amendment is made solely to clarify claim numbering without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter.

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover, have not acquiesced to any rejections or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Applicants respectfully request entry of this submission and believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned to discuss any issues related to the prosecution of the instant application.

No fees are believed due for this submission. However, if a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication, to


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Applicant's Deposit Account No. 010535. Additionally, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit overpayment of any fees during the pendency of this application to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 010535.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 24 February 2006

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